

THE ROSWELL DAILY RECORD.

VOLUME 1.

ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO, TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 6 1903

NUMBER 173

The Town Board Took the First Step Cityward Last Night Under the Governor's Proclamation

LAND LAWS.

Strong Opposition to be Met in the Repeal of Some Iniquitous Laws.

HOMESTEAD A MISNOMER.

Western Opposition and Eastern Apathy are the Stumbling Blocks in the Road of Progress.

The strong and determined opposition developed at the recent National Irrigation Congress at Ogden, Utah, to the proposed repeal of our abused land laws indicates that if there is to be any changing or amending of these laws it will be done only through a thorough understanding of their iniquitous features and an awakening of the people to a realization of the fact that under them immense quantities of valuable government property are passing into the hands of private corporations and speculators for a mere tithe of their value to the Nation.

A resolution was introduced at the congress by George H. Maxwell, the executive chairman of the National Irrigation Association—the same resolution which was passed by the last Trans-Mississippi Congress, quoting the President's words in denunciation of these laws and calling upon the United States Congress for their repeal. Congressmen from both Wyoming and Idaho vigorously opposed such action and in a speech to the Irrigation Congress Representative Mondell of Wyoming strenuously defended all the land laws, especially the Desert Land Law, which he stated had been of great benefit to Wyoming. On the other hand, congressmen of California and Montana denounced all three laws as having been the cause of enormous areas of public land passing fraudulently into private ownership, and Senator Gibson of Montana and Mr. Maxwell both quoted land office figures to show that unless something is done to prevent the absorption of these lands the great bulk of the remaining desirable and arable public lands will in a few years have entirely disappeared.

Twenty Million Acres a Year.
As a matter of fact a statement of the Commissioner of the General Land Office shows that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, an even twenty million acres passed from the hands of the government, while the report of the preceding year shows practically the same figures—40,000,000 acres of public land, in round numbers passed into private ownership within two years.

But those who are only partly informed say, "Well, what of it? There are still five hundred million acres left in the arid states and territories; forty million acres is not such a great proportion of this vast area." The truth is that the greater part of the remaining public domain is composed of irreclaimable and non-arable land—mountains, rugged hills, gulches and gorges which are now and always will be worthless for agriculture; they can never be used for anything but grazing. The forty million acres in question were not taken from such territory; filings for them were made upon the comparatively small remaining areas of plain and valley lands, capable of irrigation under government storage of flood waters and of sustaining a great population if settled upon in small tracts of eighty or one hundred and sixty acres each,—an ample amount to sustain a man and his family, provided he has a good water supply.

Frauds Being Perpetrated.
Under the Desert Land Act, which is supposed to contemplate the reclamation of the land, immense areas states and territories have been patented which are now lying idle in

the hands of speculators and livestock concerns; as Governor Morrison of Idaho stated, this law has succeeded in tying up a great deal of Idaho's best land.

Under the commutation clause of the Homestead Act much the same result has been obtained. A man is able to commute and get title to his 160 acres after building a shack costing a few dollars and residing upon his claim a few times during a period of fourteen months, besides possibly making a few cheap improvements in case he thinks it is necessary. The name "homestead" is a misnomer, when the commutation clause is applied to the law.

Under the Timber and Stone Act the most notorious frauds are being daily consummated. In the great timber regions of Washington and Oregon, by far the best timber region in the United States, land is being purchased from the government by dummies and speculators at \$2.50 an acre. "Save the forests and store the floods" is a huge joke to the timber speculators.

Repeal These Laws.
Now the proposition is to repeal these three laws. It will be necessary to have some additional legislation regarding the sale of timber. A strong point made by the opponents of the repeal of these laws is that such action would cut off the contributions to the irrigation fund, which is derived from the sale of public lands. Under a proper timber law the government income from timber

NINETY-FIVE YEARS OLD.

Grandma Day Celebrated Her Ninety-Fifth Birthday To-Day.

At the home of her youngest daughter, Mrs. J. F. Bryson who resides about one and a half miles north of town, Mrs. Sarah Day celebrated her ninety-fifth birthday today by giving a dinner for all of her friends and relatives who were with her. For the past ten years she has each year on her birthday given a dinner and on each occasion up to the present year all of her children have been with her. This time only two were present, J. M. Day of Penasco and Mrs. J. F. Bryson of Roswell.

Mrs. Sarah Day, affectionately called Grandma Day by all who know her, was born in southeastern Missouri October 6, 1808. She spent her girlhood and young womanhood there, and was married there in 1828. In 1848 she with her family moved to Texas and located on a place near San Marcos where she lived until after the civil war, when she moved to Austin which place continued to be her home until she came with her daughter to New Mexico one year ago last spring. She raised a family of eleven children to be grown, only five of whom are now alive. She had six sons in the Confederate army during the civil war, all of whom returned to her. Her oldest child, Mrs. J. L. Driskill, residing in Austin, Texas, Mrs. E. D. English of Haskell, Texas, J. M. Day of Penasco, A. J. (Tony) Day of Medi-

promise of living for five more years.

Mrs. Day has been a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church ever since it was organized, and still takes much interest in church matters and has her church paper read to her each week by her daughter.

Since she has been in New Mexico she has taken great interest in the products of the country and asks many questions about the system of irrigation and how it is done. It is something new to her and she has often said she has always lived in a country where plenty of rain fell and irrigation was unknown. She is always ready to meet her friends and converse with them and never tires or loses interest in the current events happening daily. She loves to have the news read to her from the papers and takes much interest in it. This year, as before, she says this will be the last birthday she will live to see, but her friends disagree with her and believe she will live to see and enjoy many more birthdays as bright and happy as this one.

THE TERRITORIAL FAIR.

Albuquerque is making Arrangements to Entertain a Big Crowd.

Special Correspondence.

Albuquerque, October 5.—After seeing the big Roswell fair and enjoying every minute of it your correspondent has come over to Albuquerque to take a look at the preparations for the great Territorial fair which opens in this city Monday to continue for five big days. It is going to be a great fair. There is no question of that. In the first place the association has spent more money this year than ever before, and after all, money talks. There are some \$12,000 offered in purses and few state fairs in the east are able to offer more. Moreover the entire territory is interested in this fair. Every section, however remote, is sending its quota of exhibits and is going to send its delegation of citizens. This may be because the fair is better advertised than ever before, but it seems more likely that as the territory is developed and new railroads are opened up, the relations between the several sections become more cordial. Certain it is that the people are coming to Albuquerque this year. Your correspondent has been pretty much over the territory of late and everywhere the fair is the chief topic of interest.

It is well worth the interest. Secretary P. E. McCanna showed me some of the entry lists today. They are very long and include horsemen and cowboys from half a dozen states though of course the great bulk is from the two territories most interested in the fair. The cowboy tournament will include about all of the stars who were in Roswell a few days ago, together with experts from Wyoming and Colorado and even a few from Missouri and Kansas. The horses for the race meeting are here in such numbers that the fair ground stables are crowded to the end and it may be necessary to build new stalls. The Southern Carnival company with its eighteen shows and three hundred showmen and women will be here Sunday to set up shop in three whole city blocks which have been reserved for them and fenced off from the vulgar gaze. For this attraction alone the fair association paid \$1,000.

Just one word about the irrigation convention called by Governor Otero at the suggestion of President Richardson of the Irrigation Commission. The Secretary of Agriculture has detailed Prof. Fortier of his department and chief of the bureau of irrigation to address this convention. Mr. Fortier is the first expert in the country and has made a careful study of New Mexico through his assistants. His remarks will be sure to be of great advantage to the work of the convention. Every section of the territory by one who is qualified to speak of the needs of irrigation in his particular county and the result is bound to be a general broadening of ideas with consequent good to the territory. This convention will be held on Tuesday next, October 13th. It will be open to all.

It will be worth while to be in Albuquerque during the fair. There will be something doing every minute and one will have to hurry to find time to sleep.

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Song, Good Old Summer Time—Voyles, Chance and Smith.

Song, Please Mr. Conductor—Wilson.

Buck and Wing Dancing Contest—Voyles and Chance.

Song, A Lazy Coon—Chance. Animal Fair Trio—Smith Voyles and Chance.

There will be other numbers that cannot be mentioned at present.

Afterpiece, The Long Distance Telephone Office.

October 7th, 1903, at opera house. Doors open at 7:30 o'clock and the curtain will rise at 8:20.

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sales would be far greater than at present and in any event the above is a preposterous reason to advance, because if these laws are left intact, and the absorption of the public domain under them continues as at present, there will soon be no public land left for reclamation under the irrigation act.

Looking to the East.
The strength to repeal these laws must come from the east. The fight in the irrigation congress shows the opposition which can be expected in certain sections of the west, and in order to secure the public domain from speculation and to keep it intact against the time when it shall be needed by the settler, eastern sentiment must be aroused to the situation. Western opposition and eastern apathy are the stumbling blocks.

The western men who look for the true development of their country along home making lines ask the east to come to their support on this question—to save the land for the actual settler.

GUY E. MITCHELL.

Bucks are Here.

The A. G. Anderson bucks are here and are held in a lot one-half square north of the court house.

JOHN TRENT.

"You little knew when first we met, That some day you would be The luck fellow I'd choose to let Build an house for me."

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